

REMARKS

Applicants submit this response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2005.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 16, 18 and 20-22 are allowed.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,179,517 to Nelson (hereinafter “*Nelson*”). The Office Action further rejected claims 9-11, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on *Nelson* in combination with U.S. Patent 4,434,578 to Rumpz (hereinafter “*Rumpz*”).

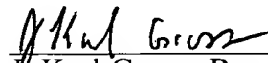
To expedite prosecution and allowance, Applicants have canceled claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants do not acquiesce in the properness of any claim rejection and specifically reserve the right to pursue all claims presently and previously cancelled in one or more continuations applications.

Applicants also submit with this response new dependent claims 23-32. New claims 23-24 are supported by the originally filed specification at, for example, page 15, line 23 to page 17, line 3. New claims 25-26 are similar to original claims 8-9. New claims 27-28 are supported at, for example, page 13, line 17 - page 14, line 9. New claims 29-31 are supported at page 19, line 17 - page 20, line 19. New claim 32 is supported at page 18, lines 6-14. Accordingly, no new subject matter has been added by way of these new claims.

Further, because these new claims all depend from allowable claim 16, they likewise should be allowable. See, e.g., *RCA Corp. v. Applied Digital Data Systems*, 221 U.S.P.Q. 385 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (claims depending upon a non-anticipated claim likewise cannot be anticipated); *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (claims depending on a non-obvious claim likewise cannot be obvious).

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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